



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

REVISED 11-5-10

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANGELA R. FAHERTY, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # VIII.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Commissioner*

DATE: November 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report of Findings for the University of Maine at Farmington

BACKGROUND:

The University of Maine at Farmington requested a campus visitation to review, for renewal of State program approval, the following teacher preparation programs:

Undergraduate Programs:

- Early Childhood Education B-5
- Early Childhood Education K-3
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Elementary Education, K-8
- School Health Education, K-12
- Secondary Education – English, 7-12
- Secondary Education – Life Sciences, 7-12
- Secondary Education – Mathematics, 7-12
- Secondary Education – Physical Sciences, 7-12
- Secondary Education – Social Studies, 7-12
- Special Education K-8
- Special Education 7-12

The State of Maine Program Approval and NCATE Unit Accreditation for Professional Education Units in the State of Maine Partnership Agreement stipulates that a joint state and national visitation team, for continuing accreditation, will be composed of Maine educators, representing the Maine State Board of Education, and national educators representing NCATE. The team was chaired by an NCATE team member and co-chaired by a Maine team member - the Maine team being one less in number than the NCATE team.

For the Board's information and reference excerpted portions of Chapter 114-A, § 3.8 Joint Program Approval are provided as follows:

3.8 Joint Program Approval.

“In lieu of meeting the standards for approval contained in Standards two (2) through six (6), in Section 2 of this rule, preparation programs may obtain approval for purposes of Maine Department of Education Regulation 115 under the following circumstances:

- a) The applicant unit is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or
- b)
 - 1) A joint visitation by State representatives and the accrediting authority will provide the basis for decisions of both state program approval and national accreditation. This process will result in a recommendation to the State Board and a report to the accrediting authority.
- f) The Commissioner shall forward the materials received from the joint team to the State Board along with a recommended disposition. On the basis of the documents and information received from the Commissioner, and any other pertinent information, the State Board shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny approval to a preparation program. This final decision rests solely with the State Board.”

A joint State and National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) program approval/accreditation visit to the University of Maine at Farmington was conducted October 3-5, 2010 for the purpose of reviewing the professional educator preparation programs.

Following the on-site visit a State Team report was prepared which includes the findings resulting from application of both State and NCATE standards. Commendations, recommendations, and a recommendation for State program approval status are contained in this report. The State Team report has been prepared for State Board action following notification of NCATE’s Unit Accrediting Board decision that will occur in April, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive and hold in abeyance the State Team report concerning the University of Maine at Farmington application for continued State program approval. Consideration of the State Team report and recommendations for program approval contained therein will appear as an action agenda item for the May, 2011 meeting of the State Board of Education.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
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